

SENATE Income & Claims

Exhibit No. 5

Date 1/26/09

Bill No. SB 73

Dear Senator,

I am writing to express the Montana Public Interest Group's (MontPIRG) support of Senate Bill 73 sponsored by Senator Hawks. MontPIRG believes that we need to have better transportation options in the 21st century in order to cut down on carbon emissions and air pollution. One way to do this is by promoting and utilizing vehicles that provide consumers more sustainable options, which SB 73 accomplishes.

MontPIRG supports this legislation, as it is a necessary step in making it easier for Montanans to purchase electric vehicles. SB 73 ensures owners will pay a one-time registration fee, rather than an annual registration fee each year. This is a helpful incentive comparable to other limited use vehicles, such as motorcycles.

There has been some opposition to this legislation due to the fiscal note and our organization must reiterate that the fiscal note for SB 73 is completely unreasonable. It doesn't show any direct cost to this bill, but rather associates it with routine updates of the Montana vehicle services and should not reflect against SB 73.

Montana has led the way nationwide on this issue, being the first state to create this very important category of cars, medium speed electric vehicles (MSEVs). Let's do what we can to continue this promising trend. Thank you for your consideration and I urge you to support SB 73.

Sincerely

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